

## A HATED EMPEROR.

### Ill Feeling Existing Between the Chinese Ruler and His Subjects.

#### The Speedy Downfall of the Present Dynasty Prophetically Announced—The Country to Be Divided Into Three Kingdoms.

Reports of a serious revolt against the present Chinese government in Manchuria and the issue of proclamations by the rebels declaring that the Manchu dynasty is near its end have created a great deal of interest among the foreign colony in the treaty ports, says a letter from Shanghai. News that bears directly upon the reported disaffection in many provinces of China comes from Nanking. It appears that all up through the great valley of the Yangtze a finely written prophecy of the approaching end of Manchu rule is being circulated. It is almost impossible for a foreigner who has not lived in China to understand the importance that is given by the gentry to anything which is well written or carefully printed. If such a document does not strongly violate the probabilities it will be accepted as Gospel truth.

This prophecy, says the Chicago Tribune, appears to be firmly believed by all the Chinese who have read it. It purports to have been written by Huan Peh-Shan, who in a vision describes the downfall of the present government. It shows considerable literary ability, but anyone who is skeptical may readily see that the author has thrown in local detail to clinch his prophecy.

The sketch of the emperors of China is very well done, but this historical introduction appears to have been written merely to lull the suspicions of the reader and to induce him to accept the sensational statements about the coming ruin of the Manchu dynasty. The prophet declares that the great provinces of Yunnan and Kweichow are the first that will abandon the empire. After this China will be divided into three kingdoms, but this will not take place and permanent peace will not be secured until the woods are cleared from Purple mountain and the waters of Lotus lake are dried up. The specious nature of such a prophecy may be seen when it is stated that about all the forest has been cut off of Purple mountain, while in dry years one may walk over the bed of Lotus lake, which is converted into solid ground. Any season of drought may therefore be taken by the conspirators with the assurance that the two main items of this prophecy will be found fulfilled.

In Hunan there is deep feeling against the present dynasty because of its favor shown to foreigners. Hunan is the seat of a set of fanatics who would rejoice to see every European thrown out of China. In this province have occurred the worst outrages on Christian missionaries, and anyone journeying up the Yangtze retains vivid recollections of the showers of stones and obscenity that descended upon his house-boat from the neigh-

ring banks. Intercourse with foreigners seem only to intensify the popular hatred of the European interlopers, who, they think, are encouraged by the young Emperor and his advisers. The worst feature of the situation is that the central government does not dare to rebuke the insolence of the Hunan people. This has been shown repeatedly in recent years, but the most conspicuous instance was the failure to punish Chou Han, the author of the infamous Hunan tracts against Christianity, which caused all the peril and suffering of missionaries in the Yangtze valley. This man was proved to be the author of these tracts inciting people to murder Christian missionaries, and the very blocks on which they were printed were found in his house, but he escaped on the specious pretext, trumped up by the governor of Chang Chu, that the man was insane, and therefore beyond the reach of the law!

Again in the recent Suneku massacre of two Swedish missionaries the viceroy of Hunan was first insolent, then procrastinating, and finally, when forced to act, cunningly made scapegoats of some of the best native friends of the missionaries. He then dilated on the thoroughness of his work and the impartial punishment dealt out. Everyone recognized the mockery of the thing, but as no European could follow out an investigation his report had to be accepted. Since then elaborate protests have been filed with the Taung-li Yamen against the injustice of the proceeding.

In any other country than China such acts would have resulted in the degradation of the guilty officials, but the governor of Changcha and the viceroy of Hunan are both in office and complacently defy their foreign critics.

It is from Hunan, therefore, that we may expect to see the first uprising against the present dynasty. There are already rumors of serious trouble, but no one can ascertain the facts, because the province is closed to Europeans, and the few native Christians dare not tell what they know for fear of the vengeance of the officials.

#### Hetty Green's "Extravagant Boy."

A New York man tells a characteristic story of Mrs. Hetty Green. He was the Chemical bank in New York one day in conversation with the cashier when Mrs. Green passed through into an inner office. The cashier called out and said:

"Oh, by the way, Mrs. Green, your son bought that railroad yesterday."

"Did he?" said the lady, stopping short. "How much did he pay for it?"

"Two million five hundred thousand dollars."

"The extravagant boy!" said the fond mother indignantly. "If I had been there I could have bought it for fifty thousand dollars less!"

That was the only comment she made on the transaction, which most people would consider of supreme magnitude. The chances are that she was right.

